

REMARKS

Claims 11, 15-20, and 23-33 are pending in this application. Independent Claims 11, 18, 23, 27, and 31 have been amended as to matters of form, Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claim 33 has been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection.

The invention of Claims 11 and 23 are characterized in that the plurality of lenses are provided on the downstream side of the mirror. By virtue of this, the present invention allows for good image scanning, because the unexpected tilt or distortion of mirrors can be corrected by the plurality of lenses.

Claims 11 and 23 are distinguishable over the prior art, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,652,611 (Nakashima et al.), it is disclosed that at least one of the first and second image forming optical units can be made up of a plurality of lenses. Furthermore, as Nakashima et al. describes at lines 5- 7 of column 9, as long as the correction lens 5 is placed between the rotating mirror 4 and the photosensitive drum 6, there is no specific position at which the correction lens 5 has to be placed. While the correction mirror 5 of Nakashima et al. includes a plurality of lenses it nonetheless fails to disclose that all of the lenses are positioned on the downstream side of the mirror. Like Nakashima, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,313,906 (Nagasaki et al.) also does not disclose that the plurality of lenses must be provided at positions downstream of the mirror.

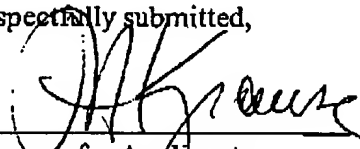
The inventions of Claims 30 and 31 are characterized by the fact that the plurality of imaging members are provided on the downstream side of the reflected member. Because of this placement, unexpected tilt or distortion of reflecting members can be corrected by the

plurality of imaging members such that, good image scanning can be achieved.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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